THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"And it shall come to pass, that whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father at that day when I shall stand to judge the world." BOOK OF MORMON, 3 NEPHI 27: 16.

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WORK—THE KEYNOTE OF PROGRESS*

ELDER REED SMOOT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

I AM THANKFUL to my Heavenly Father for the privilege of attending this remarkable conference, for to me it has been a most remarkable one in so many ways. The instructions given, the testimonies borne, the interest shown by the thousands attending each session, and no doubt other thousands listening in by radio, must be most gratifying to all who are interested in the welfare and growth of God's latter-day work.

I pray that what I may say at this time will be acceptable to our Heavenly Father and will inspire in the hearts of the Saints a greater determination to serve God, keep His commandments, and *work*, *work*, *work*, to bring about God's great plan as revealed to His prophet, Joseph, in this the last dispensation, the dispensation of the fulness of times. The lazy, the indolent have little place in carrying forward God's plans. This is so in this age, and has been from the beginning, and will continue to be so until the end. The growth of the Church has not been accomplished by the idler, the fault-finder, the whiner, the mentally or physically unclean, but by the industrious, the faithful, the unselfish, the defenders of its principles, be they poor, well-to-do or wealthy. The Gospel of Jesus Christ enters into the every-day life of every one of its adherents.

I often read Solomon's exhortation to the study of wisdom

*Address delivered at the closing session of the Ninety-ninth Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., October 7th, 1928.

against idleness and things hateful to God. I will read you one statement made by him touching the question of idleness, and it is as true to-day as when uttered by Solomon:

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep;

So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

For years on the front cover of the *Juvenile Instructor* there appeared these words: "There is no excellence without labour."

The necessity and advantages of work have been stressed in all ages of the world, and I call to mind a revelation given through Joseph Smith, the Prophet, on February 9th, 1831, in the presence of twelve Elders, and I find in that revelation the following: "Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the labourer." (Doc. and Cov. 42:42.)

LIFE'S MASTER WORD

In an address by Dr. William Osler, to a group of young physicians, he made this statement on "Life's Master Word":

Though a little one, the master-word looms large in meaning. It is the opening to every portal, the great equalizer in the world, the true philosopher's stone which transmutes all base metal of humanity into gold. The stupid man among you it will make bright, the bright man brilliant, the brilliant student steady. With the magic word in your heart *all* things are possible, and without it all study is vanity and vexation. The miracles of life are with it; the blind see by touch, the deaf hear with eyes, the dumb speak with fingers. To the youth it brings hope, to the middle-aged confidence, to the aged repose. True balm of hurt, in its presence the heart of the sorrowful is lightened and consoled. It is directly responsible for all advances in medicine during the past twenty-five centuries. With it Virchow smote the rock, and the waters of progress gushed out; while in the hands of Pasteur it proved a very talisman, to open to us a new heaven in medicine and a new earth in surgery. Not only has it been the touchstone of progress, but it is the measure of success in every-day life. Not a man before you but is beholden to it for his position here. And, the master-word is WORK—a little one, as I have said, but fraught with momentous sequences if you can but write it on the tablets of your hearts and bind it upon your foreheads.

Dr. Osler's forceful statement is wonderfully exemplified in the labours and activities of all great pioneers in all ages of the world that we have record of. There are thousands of them, but none greater than those whose lives were dedicated to our Heavenly Father's work and who steadfastly lived, laboured, and, in many cases became martyrs in its defense.

Consider Paul, the worker. He, by his strenuous activity, his zeal, his industry, must have impressed the people of his age that work or labour was honourable, that it occupies the place it richly deserves. Paul did not consider work a means of making a living, but as an opportunity of making a life. Paul preferred a laborious life to one of ease and pleasure. As all super-men, he rendered a service to mankind. He learned in his later years that work was the real secret of accomplishment, and further, that accomplishment was the real secret of happiness. Having a knowledge of these facts, Paul was able to say: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day."

These were the words of Paul, the militant Apostle, after suffering opposition, discouragement, imprisonment, threats of death—still he could tell the world in modesty, but convincingly, that he had met his task squarely and finished it thoroughly.

HEZEKIAH A MAN OF ACTION

I call to mind another remarkable character in the Bible, of whom it is said, that every work which he began, he did "with all his heart, and he prospered." His accomplishments were ordinary—simply one of that age performing his daily tasks unnoticed, but when a problem that he alone could solve came to him, he was aroused by divine enthusiasm. The real object of life was made manifest to him. It was a time for action, courage, determination. His decision would make or mar his career. "Forward" was the word, and Hezekiah obeyed. Life and all he possessed were at stake. He now realized that dreams meant nothing until they became realities. Hezekiah from that moment had no time for making excuses, no time to complain, no time to count the cost. His task was God's call, and it must and shall be accomplished.

Notwithstanding that almost unsurmountable difficulties crossed his path, he never wavered in his determination to accomplish the work. No matter what happened, he had his work to do. Nothing could swerve him from it—he had learned the lesson that "There is no excellence without labour." He had not time to envy the success of others. He had a vocation to master. He had found his place. He believed implicitly in hard work. It is no wonder he never experienced drudgery, discontent, dissatisfaction.

The characters of Paul and Hezekiah were just the opposite from that of the unfaithful servant who went away and hid his talent in the earth. In the latter case excuses were submitted for honest effort, no doubt whining because he was not forging ahead, always waiting for somebody to help him, ever watching the clock or listening for the whistle to blow, imagining that his

pathway was strewn with difficulties and joining in the chorus of the army of failures and wails: "I've never had a chance; there's no use trying."

Too many people are quitters. They are always looking for bargains, discounts, short-cuts to success, rather than facing life's problems squarely. Some are good starters, but poor finishers. Edgar A. Guest expresses the tragedy of many a life as follows:

How do you tackle your work each day?
Are you scared of the job you find?
Do you grapple the task that comes your way
With a confident, easy mind?
Do you stand right up to the work ahead,
Or fearfully pause to view it?
Do you start to toil with a sense of dread,
Or feel that you're going to do it?

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF A PROPHET

I now call to mind a more modern servant of God, one chosen by our Heavenly Father to open this Gospel dispensation. See what he accomplished through direct instructions and assistance from our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, as well as other ordained personages, having the authority to confer upon him the necessary powers to organize again the Church of Jesus Christ with all of its powers, authority and blessings, enjoyed by the Church over which the Saviour presided during His mortal life. I refer to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Let me recite to you some of the things the Prophet Joseph Smith accomplished before he was thirty-nine years of age.

He had seen the Father and the Son, and had held eight conversations with the Prophet Moroni. He had received the Aaronic Priesthood from John the Baptist and the Melchizedek Priesthood from the Apostles, Peter, James and John. He had translated the Book of Mormon by the power of God, and had had it printed and in circulation among the people of the nation. Joseph Smith had organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by instruction from heaven, and had received a number of revelations from God. He had received the keys from Elijah, turning the hearts of the children to the fathers, and from Moses he had received the keys of the gathering. He had communicated with Elias, who committed to him the dispensation of the Gospel of Abraham, and had planned two temples, one at Kirtland and one at Nauvoo. Before he was twenty-five years of age he had received nearly two hundred revelations from God and had translated the Book of Abraham from rolls of papyrus written by Abraham himself while he was in Egypt, which came from the catacombs of Egypt. He had received revelations and visions of the writings of Moses as contained in

the Pearl of Great Price, giving, among other things, a minute account of the rebellion in heaven and of the creation.

THE NEED OF PERSEVERANCE

What is needed of the Saints to-day is more of that particular brand of perseverance which makes one unable to rest while important things are half accomplished, and urges him to keep up the pace until the course is run. We must be more than average workers. We must do something more than average work. "My son," said Bob Burdette, "you have to work. Whether you handle pick or wheelbarrow or a set of books, digging ditches or editing a newspaper, ringing an auction bell or writing funny things, you must work. Don't be afraid of killing yourself by over-working on the sunny side of thirty. Men die sometimes, but it is because they quit at nine p.m. and don't go home until two a.m. It's the intervals that kill, my son. . . . Take off your coat and make dust in the world. The busier you are, the less harm you are apt to get into, the sweeter will be your sleep, the brighter your holidays, and the better satisfied the whole world with be with you." "Keep your boys busy," said Brigham Young, "even if you have to have them dig a hole and fill it up again." Remember, "an idle brain is the devil's workshop."

When a boy, Kipling accompanied his father on a sea voyage. The father was lying on his bed when a frightened sailor rushed to his door crying: "Your son! Your son!" The frightened father sprang to his feet exclaiming: "What is the matter?" "He has climbed out on the foreyard and if he lets go he will be drowned." "Oh, is that all?" replied Kipling, Sr., as he lay down again. "He won't let go."

I call to mind a statement of Alexander Hamilton, one of America's most brilliant statesmen, as follows: "People call me talented, but all the talent I have is the ability for hard work, and through that has come all the success I have ever attained."

Robert Louis Stevenson upon one occasion said: "I know what pleasure is, for I have done good work."

We all remember the inspired words of M. D. Babcock, when she said:

> We are not here to play, to dream, to drift;
> We have hard work to do, and loads to lift;
> Shun not the struggle; face it; 'tis God's gift.

This Gospel shall be preached to every kindred, tongue and people, and God is fast preparing the way for its accomplishment. We are living in the last dispensation—the beginning of the end. Give us wisdom and strength, O Father, that we may work for its advancement and not weary.

I know that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of

the living God; that Joseph Smith was called of God and under divine instruction organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This Church will never be destroyed nor given to another people. Father, we thank Thee for this conference; sanctify all that has been said and done to the advancement of Thy Church and its mission on earth, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

AN ACCEPTANCE OF "MORMONISM"

ELDER AUBREY J. PARKER

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

TIME MEANS NOTHING when the truth is considered. If "Mormonism" was true twenty years ago, it is true to-day. As the clock ticks off the moments, "Mormonism" is looming larger before the eyes of a wondering world; we are nearing the hour when the consummation looked for by all the prophets since time began, will take place.

Much has happened in my life since the Sunday morning of November 8th, 1908, when I entered the waters of baptism and espoused the unpopular cause of "Mormonism." Three times I have been at death's door; and three times death's cold hand has been held from me, by the authoritative voice of the holy Priesthood. Once I was instantly healed of a chronic complaint, to the great astonishment of our family doctor.

Before I accepted the Gospel, I was "blown about by every wind of doctrine"; but after I became confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, everything concerning life and religion, which hitherto had been obscured, unfolded to my sight and became clear to me. I beheld in panoramic view the divine plan of salvation, and understood how all men may come back into the presence of God.

After leaving England, my native land, behind, I saw life from a different standpoint. With the fruits of the Gospel before me, I became as one who believed by sight, having a testimony of the work from the results I could see. My life has since been fuller. "Mormonism" is truly a mighty work, and all who will, may see for themselves the results it brings.

"Mormonism" satisfies. It is the religion of to-day—*now*! With a firm foundation of truth, aided by continuous revelation, it brings man to a knowledge of God. It does not bring God down to man; it shows man the path whereby he may come into the presence of God and obtain eternal life. Its messengers boldly proclaim the divine plan of salvation abroad in the earth and bring to mankind again the glorious light of reason, in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"DADDY" PRING—THE "GRAND OLD MAN"

ELDER ERVIN R. STOKER

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST has had its great men—many whose names are indelibly written in historical records. The stories of the lives of these great and noble ones, together with their writings and their sayings, are among the choicest possessions of the world to-day. Nothing could be more beautiful or awe-inspiring than the lives of these grand men.

The Church in these latter days has its great men too. Men, the example of whose daily lives inspire countless others for good, and whose teachings ennoble, enrich and exalt. Praise be to all such!

Many there are who have never heard of Walter Pring; yet he was one of the great ones. He is the "Grand Old Man" of the Belfast Branch. "Daddy" Pring, they called him.

During the troublous times of the World War, when there were no missionaries from America in England, it was "Daddy" Pring who kept the Belfast Branch going. He was preacher, missionary, comforter of the sick and distressed, cheerer of the depressed and the wretched, and the loving, faithful friend of all.

It was "Daddy" Pring's coal box that was left empty, the while there was a roaring fire at the meeting hall on the bleak, cold days. He was the good fairy who would mysteriously leave a basket of groceries at the door of some destitute family; his pennies caused glowing smiles to brighten the faces of suffering little children; his kindly words and hearty smiles left the light of joy and happiness wherever he went. Belfast will not soon forget its "Grand Old Man."

He was, likely, one of the greatest missionaries who ever trod the Green Isle. He preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever he went. Few there are in all the city of Belfast who have not heard his testimony. One month, shortly before his death, he distributed over a thousand pamphlets alone—and he was eighty years old!

On the 26th of September, 1927, he passed away. He worked right up to the day of his death. He met death with little suffering and no fears—he was called home. Travelers in the spirit world may find the "Daddy" of the Belfast Branch there now—opening the eyes of the blind, bringing out the prisoners from the prison house—preaching the glorious plan of eternal salvation.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those that bring glad tidings" of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

LAW IS MADE for the lawless. Let the Saints live their religion, and there is not a law that can justly infringe upon them.—BRIGHAM YOUNG.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1929

EDITORIAL

M. I. A. SLOGAN FOR 1928-29

We stand for law: For the people who live it and the officers who enforce it.

KINDS OF LAW

We speak of natural, human and divine law, but only for convenience in speech, for all law should issue from the One Supreme Law-giver, our Father in Heaven.

All things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal.—Doc. and Cov. 29: 34.

Natural laws, so-called, governing the material universe, are physical as contrasted with social or spiritual laws. Lightning and thunder, sunshine and rain, plants and animals, in their natural manifestations, are but expressions of eternal, natural laws under which all creation moves. In the words of latter-day revelation:

All kingdoms have a law given;
And there are many kingdoms; . . .
And unto every kingdom is given a law; and unto every law there are certain bounds also and conditions. . . .
He hath given a law unto all things, by which they move in their times and their seasons;
And their courses are fixed, even the courses of the heavens and the earth, which comprehend the earth and all the planets.—Doc. and Cov. 88: 36-38, 42, 43.

Human laws, man-made, intended for the government of society—groups of many individuals with many minds—are necessary for the peace and welfare of humanity. Punishment for theft and murder, sanitary regulations, assessment of taxes for the support of public institutions, are human laws. Such laws reflect the right of free agency, and therefore the imperfections of human nature. They are best when planned severely for general human welfare and not for the good of special groups—that is, with the commandments of the Lord as guides. Latter-day Saints are strictly required to respect and obey the laws of the lands in which they live, and to secure modifications of unjust laws by proper constitutional methods. Thus:

Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land.—Doc. and Cov. 58: 21.

Divine laws refer in common speech to the spiritual domain. Such laws and required ordinances are devised to assist the human race upon their eternal progressive journey and to bring them into closer communion with the Lord. Faith, repentance, baptism, prayer and support of our fellow men are types of spiritual requirements. All divine laws center upon the plan of salvation, the chief figure of which is Jesus Christ. In words given to Joseph Smith:

I am the Lord thy God; and I give unto you this commandment—that no man shall come unto the Father but by me or by my word, which is my law, saith the Lord.—Doc. and Cov. 132: 12.

However we may classify the laws under which we live, they all proceed, if founded in truth, from the Lord. Such laws, whether natural or human, have the divine stamp. All such laws, together, compose the orderly system under which we may win progress with happiness. At last, when the promise of the ages has been consummated:

The Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver.—Doc. and Cov. 45: 59.

Then in that happy day:

You shall be a free people, and ye shall have no laws but my laws.—Doc. and Cov. 38: 42.

W.

FOUNDATIONS OF LAW

Knowledge of law results from the search for truth. Newton and others peered into the heavens, to discover the truths of the starry deep, and the theory of gravitation, explaining the laws of planetary and stellar motions, was born. Others sought the inner truths of matter, and the atomic theory explaining the laws of material structure was conceived. Yet others who pursued the truths of electricity discovered X-rays, radiant light and electrons, and a dim vision was gained of the ultimate nature of things. Others sought the truth of organic life and sensed the law of progress for all living things.

The discovery of truth is always followed by the revelation of law. The sum of discovered truth may be measured by the extent of known law. Truth and law travel together. They are, and always should be, as the two sides of a shield, or as the palm and back of the hand. It cannot be otherwise in natural law; it should not be otherwise in human law. All this follows from the nature of truth, which is all-inclusive:

Truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come.—Doc. and Cov. 93: 24.

Truth, therefore, is the foundation of law. A man-made law which does not conform to known truth is not of the eternal nature that characterizes the verities of existence. The correctness of a law may be tested by its conformity to truth.

Human law is subject to yet another test: Is it good for man? If it injures any person, it fails to that extent. The plan of life is for man's advancement; the earth and its fulness are ordained for man's good. Any man-made law must, therefore, be founded not only in truth, but must apply existing knowledge to human needs. For example, laws regulating the length of the working day, or the window space in factories, or the nature of meals served in public institutions, must be formulated with respect to the welfare of the people concerned, else the law is imperfect. The recognition of this test, as our knowledge has increased, has led to tremendous economic and social progress—and the end is not yet.

All law, therefore, must root in truth, and if of human making, it must be for the good of man. These foundations have been stated simply by the Lord:

> Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.—John 8:32.
>
> This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.—Moses 1:39.

Truth and human good are the foundations of true law. By these should the value of every law be tested.—W.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH RELIEF SOCIETY

Mrs. A. William Lund has arrived in our midst to take over the direction of the Relief Societies in Great Britain.

Sister Lund was born in Salt Lake City, the daughter of George H. and Harriet Bates Brown. She is of direct British descent, her grandparents on both sides having emigrated to Utah from England in the early "fifties" of the last century. Her mother was born in London, so Sister Lund is really returning to her motherland—the land which gave birth to her worthy forefathers.

Her preparation for the work which awaits her is most excellent. For years she has been a Relief Society worker acting first as Secretary and Treasurer in her Ward, and later in the larger, more responsible position as Assistant Stake Secretary and Treasurer. For four years prior to this present call she acted in the above capacity in the Granite Stake of Zion.

However zealously she may have fulfilled these public duties she has in no wise neglected the greatest call of womanhood—that of wifehood and motherhood. She is the mother of a fine family, two sons and two daughters—William Kenneth, Gwendolyn, Ruth, and George—all of whom are here with their parents.

It is with mingled feelings of regret and personal loss that I pass on to Sister Lund the direct supervision of the Relief Society work in Great Britain. During the year of my association with the Society I have grown so near that you seem to be "sisters" in very deed. I shall miss the closer contacts of the semi-annual visits. While the larger interests of the many European Societies must claim most of my attention in the future, yet I shall ever feel near to you dear sisters whose association of the past year has been most precious and stimulating.

I take this opportunity of thanking you one and all for your loyal support and cooperation while I bespeak the same for Sister Lund who is prepared to give her best to advance the glorious cause of a righteous and more progressive womanhood on earth.

In the future all communications pertaining to the Relief Society work of the British Mission should be addressed to Mrs. Josephine B. Lund, 23 Booth Street, Handsworth, Birmingham.

A year full of progress and happiness to you all!

LEAH D. WIDTSOE

CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION PRESIDENCY

ELDER SAMUEL MARTIN, who for over two and a half years has presided most efficiently over the South African Mission, has been honourably released to return to his home. On his return journey he will spend a short time in England, when further details of the progress of the cause of the Lord in South Africa will be reported. The British Saints will give Elder Martin and his family a hearty welcome.

Elder Don Mack Dalton, first assigned to the Armenian Mission, has been appointed President of the South African Mission in succession to President Martin. President Dalton, who is expected to reach his field of labour early in the year, is a practising attorney of Salt Lake City, only recently returned from a mission to the Eastern States of U.S.A., and is well qualified to continue the excellent work that has been done in South Africa.

We extend to President Martin and his family congratulations upon the successful completion of their mission, and welcome President Dalton and family to their new field of labour where they will find much joy in teaching the restored plan of human salvation.—W.

WHEN people receive this Gospel, what do they sacrifice? Why, death for life. This is what they give: Darkness for light, error for truth, doubt and unbelief for knowledge and the certainty of the things of God.—BRIGHAM YOUNG.

WHAT I BELIEVE*

Elder Joseph F. Parrish

As the foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I believe in the existence of a true and living God, in whose likeness man has been created in the flesh.

I believe that the body and the spirit constitute the soul of man, and that the birth of this soul into mortal life is not the beginning of man's existence, nor is death the end. The human soul is as eternal as the indestructible elements of which it is composed. I believe that every human being existed as an intelligent personage in ante-mortal state before the wise Creator laid the foundations of this earth.

The purpose of God in the earth life of man was to clothe his spirit with a tabernacle of flesh and bone, give him the development and experience offered in this school of mortality, and eventually, to bring to pass his immortality and eternal life, the glory of which would depend entirely upon individual ability to live according to laws and commandments given for his advancement and well being.

I believe that Adam and Eve were the first of the spirit children of God to undergo advancement from their immortal to their mortal or second estate. Laws and governing principles were given them, together with freedom of choice, or free agency. By disobedience to one commandment, in order to fulfil a greater, came the fall, which was the beginning of sin and death as universal heritages.

MAN THE VICTIM

Thus the human race was propagated, but man became the victim of circumstances brought on by the sin of his first earthly parents. The just Creator, seeing man in his helpless condition, and not intending that he should be punished for any transgression other than his own, sent a Redeemer to take the sin of Adam from the shoulders of humanity.

I believe that Jesus Christ was the One and Only Being fitted for this Redeemership. No man has lived as did Jesus Christ, with absolute power over sin and death, His own sinless state rendering Him eligible as the subject of the atoning sacrifice whereby propitiation could be made for the sins of all men, and death overcome. I believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the great plan of salvation, established and taught by the Saviour.

I believe that the first indispensable conditions upon which in-

*Published in the December 29th, 1928, issue of the *Derby Daily Telegraph*.

dividual salvation is based are: First, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that is, acceptance of His Gospel and allegiance to His commandments. Second, repentance, embracing genuine contrition for the sins of the past and a resolute turning away therefrom, with a determination to avoid, by all possible effort, future sin. Third, baptism by immersion in water, for the remission of sins—an ordinance to be administered by one holding the holy Priesthood, or the authority to officiate in the name of Deity. Fourth, the bestowal of the Holy Ghost or the higher baptism of the Spirit, by the laying on of hands by one divinely authorized.

Thus salvation is gained through a continuance of faith, works and activity, which bring an assurance of the final goal.

I believe in an organized body, instituted by Christ and bearing His name, having the same organization that existed in the primitive Church, namely: Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, and so forth. So necessary are the several divinely appointed offices to the proper administration of the affairs in the Church, that they are compared to the different organs of a perfect human body, all essential to achieve efficiency.

I believe that a universal apostasy took place soon after the time of Christ, at which time a period of spiritual darkness covered the earth. The Apostles were tortured and slain, the perfect organization of the Church was broken, pagan institutions were mingled with holy rites, until Apostolic authority and true Christian doctrine were entirely subverted and the present divided state of Christendom resulted.

This condition came as the direct fulfilment of inspired prophecy, which predicted transgression of laws, changing of ordinances, and the breaking of the everlasting covenant.

THE FOUNDER

This state of spiritual darkness was not always to exist, for the restoration of the Gospel in its primitive power and purity was also predicted (Rev. 14:6). I give credence to the assertion that in the year 1820 A.D., Joseph Smith, a youth living in the State of New York, while in a state of confusion and puzzlement over the tumult of religious opinion which existed among the many contending sects of his home community, and realizing that all could not be right, acted upon the admonition of James (James 1:5), and in answer to his prayer received an angelic visitation.

He was assured that none of the contending sects were right, but was given the promise that in due time the true Gospel would be revealed anew. Three years later another heavenly messenger revealed to him the hiding place of some ancient records bearing the history of God's dealings with the predecessors of the present race of American Indians. These records were subsequently translated and published as the Book of Mormon, which testifies to the truth of the Holy Bible.

I believe that in the year 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ was reestablished in the state of New York, and is now known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PRIESTHOOD RESTORED

With the reestablishment of the Church came also the restoration of the Priesthood, through the hands of those who formerly held the rights, keys and powers to administer God's power on earth—the Aaronic Priesthood by John the Baptist, and the Melchizedek Priesthood by Peter, James and John.

I believe in being honest, true, virtuous, and in doing good to all men. No body of people can be found that uphold higher standards of morality, education and integrity than that of the "Mormons." Immorality among our people is considered akin to murder in seriousness, and consequently virtue is cherished.

The message of "Mormonism" to the world is one of good will, and its purpose is to call mankind to repentance prior to the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PRIMARY RESOLUTIONS

SARAH H. SMITH AND MARION BARON

HYDE BRANCH, MANCHESTER DISTRICT

A FEW MONTHS AGO the Hyde Branch Primary Association was reorganized. Children from the neighbourhood found much pleasure in the social evenings spent together in the meeting rooms. The officers received joy from their humble endeavours to "show the way."

This year is in its infancy, and prosperity is still dwelling on the wonderful brink of hope. We officers commence our duties afresh with the firm resolution of achieving success.

"If you would be happy, first make others happy," is our aim. We are going to try to teach these young souls the message of the Saviour, as it has been taught to us. Into their now desolate lives, which lack the peace and harmony which real homes provide, we wish to plant love and ideals of true manhood and true womanhood.

We realize the importance of this work and the ability required to accomplish the same; but never was a goal reached without an effort made to give the "winning kick." "Through the cloudy shadow comes the star with all its light." We each possess a testimony that is strong. We hope to keep our testimonies

always, that they may help us to live according to the commandments of God, and make us fit for membership in His kingdom.

My light is but a little one,
My light of faith and prayer;
But lo! it glows like God's great sun,
For it was lighted there.

Shine on, shine on,
Shine on bright and clear;
Shine on, shine on,
The day is near.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Lantern Slide Lectures Given: *Hull District*—Grimsby, December 8th; Scunthorpe, December 10th; Gainsborough, December 11th; Hull, December 12th. *Leeds District*—Leeds, December 13th; Bradford, December 14th; Batley, December 15th; Clayton, December 16th; Huddersfield, December 17th. *Liverpool District*—Accrington, December 18th; Blackburn, December 19th; Nelson, December 20th; Burnley, December 21st.

Doings in the Districts: *Birmingham*—On Saturday, December 29th, an M. I. A. District competition meet was held in the Handsworth Chapel, Birmingham. It proved a real success. All branches participated in the program, which consisted of poems, essays, public speaking, piano solos, and other competitive entries. Much talent was discovered and a keen interest aroused in the M. I. A. work. President A. William Lund and Elder Alvin G. Pack were in attendance. Many investigators attended.

Leeds—The Bradford Branch Relief Society restaged the operetta "The Mystic Mirror," on December 22nd. The proceeds were contributed to a Christmas fund.

A Christmas pageant was given by members of the Bradford Branch Sunday School, on December 23rd. In the evening it was again given.

Members of the Bradford Branch M. I. A. enjoyed a social and supper on Christmas Eve, December 24th, after which they went caroling.

Members of the Pudsey Branch M. I. A. enjoyed an evening of carol singing on December 24th.

A Christmas party was given for the members of the Neighbourhood Primary class at Elland on Boxing Day, December 26th.

Sunday School children of the Leeds, Bradford and Pudsey Branches enjoyed Christmas parties during Christmas week.

Liverpool—A Christmas party was given by the Nelson Branch Sunday School on December 24th.

An operetta, "The Broken Wing" was presented in the

Accrington Branch by the Sunday School on Wednesday, December 26th.

Norwich—A pageant "The Eternal Friend of Man", was given in the Lowestoft Branch, on December 23rd. Half of those in attendance were non-members of the Church.

A children's Christmas party was given by the Sunday School in Lowestoft on December 27th.

Missionaries of the Norwich District met in monthly report meeting at Lowestoft on December 28th. Elder H. Grant Vest was released from the office of District Clerk, with a vote of thanks, and Elder Jack Cummard was sustained in his stead.

Nottingham—On Sunday, December 30th, President Rulon W. Stevenson spoke at two services held in the United Methodist Church at Awsworth, near Nottingham.

A District holiday dance and social was held at the Imperial Hall, Nottingham on Friday, December 28th.

An M. I. A. conference was held in the Nottingham Branch on Sunday, December 30th.

A special Christmas program was given at the Nottingham Branch Primary social on December 24th. Efficiency prizes and gifts were given to the children.

Scottish—The Sunday School of the Glasgow Branch held a Christmas party for the children on Wednesday, December 26th. The M. I. A. gave a short playlet and a good program was enjoyed.

Ulster—Christmas was fittingly celebrated in the Belfast Branch on Sunday, December 23rd. The lives of Christ and Joseph Smith were portrayed. A Boxing Day social was held on December 26th.

Welsh—The missionaries of the Welsh District met in monthly report meeting on December 27th, at Cardiff.

Father Christmas visited the homes of members of the Pontypool Branch on Christmas Eve and presented each member with sweets and nuts.

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN